

leaders, for making right choices, for setting high standards, for setting the example, and for serving the communities in which you live. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in Eisenhower Auditorium at Pennsylvania State University. In his remarks, he referred to Graham Spanier, president, and Joe Paterno, head football coach, Pennsylvania State University; Gov. Edward G. Rendell of Pennsylvania; and Robert C. Pozen, former member, President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on Senate Confirmation of Thomas B. Griffith as a United States Appeals Court Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit**

*June 14, 2005*

I commend the Senate for confirming Tom Griffith to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Tom is an accomplished and experienced lawyer who will bring a broad range of legal experience to the court. He has served in the important post of Senate Legal Counsel, as general counsel at a major university, and in private practice. I look forward to the Senate's prompt consideration and up-or-down votes for my other judicial nominees.

**Remarks at the 2005 President's Dinner**

*June 14, 2005*

Thank you all for coming. Thank you for the warm reception. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. It's nice to have dinner with a group of friends. I appreciate you all coming here. This is a very important dinner because, through your generosity, we're going to keep control of the Senate and the House, and America will be better off for it.

I really appreciate you being here. I am sorry that the First Lady is not here. She sends her love. Generally when I say that, people groan, and I take it to mean they wish she'd have come and not me. I understand

that. I'll tell you something about Laura. She's quite the comedian, quite the diplomat. She's a heck of a First Lady and a great wife and mom. I love her dearly.

I want to thank Senator Lamar Alexander for his leadership on this incredibly successful dinner. I appreciate Speaker Denny Hastert. He is one fine man. He's a great Speaker of the House. And through your generosity, he's going to stay Speaker of the House. I want to thank the majority leader of the United States Senate, Bill Frist. He too is a great leader, and I appreciate calling him friend.

I want to thank Senator Elizabeth Dole, who is the NRSC chairman; Congressman Tom Reynolds, the NRCC chairman. Those are initials for, like, let's raise money and get the Senate in Republican—keep the Senate in Republican hands and House in Republican hands. Thank you for supporting these causes.

I want to thank the Members of the Senate and Congress for working so hard. I want to thank the Members of the—all the Members of the Congress who've joined us tonight. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here.

I want to pay special tribute to the Republican National Committee chairman, Ken Mehlman, for the fantastic job he's doing on reaching out to people from all walks of life. I want to thank the President's Dinner leadership, especially Ken Thompson and his wife, Kathylee, for the fantastic job you all have done and everybody up here has done. I want to thank the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir for being here today.

I'm proud to be the head of a party that has a positive and hopeful and optimistic vision for every single person who lives in this country. And I'm proud to be a head of a party that is driving the debate on all the key domestic and foreign policy issues. Because of our achievements, the American people see us as the party of reform and optimism and results, the party that is moving this Nation forward.

All of us in Washington have a duty to the people who sent us here. Political parties can take one of two approaches. One approach is to lead, to focus on the people's business,